

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising:

[[~~-~~]] a light-transmitting discharge vessel ~~(10)~~ having inner walls for enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space ~~(11)~~ provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,

[[~~-~~]] the discharge vessel ~~(10)~~ comprising:

discharge means for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space; ~~(13)~~,

[[~~-~~]] a protective layer for covering at least a part of an the inner wall ~~(12)~~ of the discharge vessel; and ~~(10)~~ being provided with a protective layer ~~(16)~~,

[[~~-~~]] ~~the discharge vessel (10) being provided with~~
a luminescent layer ~~(17) comprising~~ covering the protective layer and having a luminescent material,

[[~~-~~]] ~~the luminescent layer (17) further comprising and~~
inorganic softening particles ~~(27)~~ with a softening point above

450°C,

[[~~-~~]] ~~the wherein a~~ size of the softening particles ~~(27) being~~
is in the a range from 0.01 to 10 μm .

2. (Currently amended) ~~A The~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ softening particles ~~(27) comprise:~~

[[~~-~~]] are selected from at least one of a borate, and/or a
phosphate of an alkaline earth metal, ~~and/or~~

[[~~-~~]] ~~a borate and/or and~~ a phosphate of at least one of
scandium, lanthanum, yttrium ~~or and~~ a further rare earth metal.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A The~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ softening particles comprise a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and wherein the alkaline earth metal is selected from one of calcium, strontium, and ~~and/or~~ barium.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A The~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ softening particles comprise a phosphate of a further rare earth

metal and wherein the further rare earth metal is selected from at least one of lanthanum, cerium, and and/or gadolinium.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ softening particles (27) ~~are selected from the group formed by at least one of strontium borate, barium borate, yttrium borate, yttrium-strontium borate and calcium pyrophosphate.~~

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ size of the softening particles (27) ~~is in the range from 0.01 to 1 μ m.~~

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ ~~inorganic~~ softening particles (27) ~~have a melting point above 600 °C.~~

8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ protective layer (16) ~~comprises yttrium oxide or aluminum oxide.~~

9. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ protective layer ~~(16)~~ comprises:

~~[[-]]~~ at least one of a borate, ~~and/or~~ a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal, ~~and/or~~

~~[[-]]~~ a borate ~~and/or~~ a phosphate of scandium, yttrium ~~or and~~ a further rare earth metal.

10. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim ~~8~~ 9, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ protective layer comprises a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and wherein the alkaline earth metal is selected from at least one of calcium, strontium, and and/or barium.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim ~~8~~ 9, ~~characterized in that wherein the~~ protective layer comprises a phosphate of scandium or yttrium and a further rare earth metal and wherein the further rare earth metal is selected from at least one of lanthanum, cerium, and and/or gadolinium.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A compact fluorescent lamp comprising a~~ The
low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

a lamp housing ~~(70)~~ is attached to the discharge vessel; and
~~(10) of the low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp, which lamp~~
~~housing is provided with~~

a lamp cap ~~(71)~~ attached to the lamp housing.

13. (New) The low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed
in claim 1, wherein the luminescent layer comprises a phosphor
suspension and wherein the softening particles are added to the
phosphor suspension in 0.1 wt.% with respect to a solid content of
the luminescent layer.

14. (New) The low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed
in claim 1, wherein the luminescent layer comprises a phosphor
suspension and wherein the softening particles are added to the
phosphor suspension in 0.5 wt.% with respect to a solid content of
the luminescent layer.

15. (New) The low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the luminescent layer comprises a phosphor suspension and wherein the softening particles are added to the phosphor suspension in 1.0 wt.% with respect to a solid content of the luminescent layer.

16. (New) The low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the luminescent layer comprises a phosphor suspension and wherein the softening particles are added to the phosphor suspension in 2.0 wt.% with respect to a solid content of the luminescent layer.

17. (New) The low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel comprises at least one arc-shaped portion joined to at least one straight portion.